Parables, REFLECTING

Upon the

TIMES.



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(43.)

(2.) (44.)

To the choicest of my Noble Friends, Sir—D. Knight.

SIR,

Mongst many other Barbarismes which like an A impetuous Torrent have lately rush'd in upon us, The interception and opening of Letters is none of the least, For it hath quite bereft all ingenious Spirits of that correspondencie and sweet communication of fancie, which hath been alwayes esteemed the best fuell of affe-Etion, and the very marrow of friendship. And truely, in my judgement, this custom may be termed not onely a Barbarisme, but the basest kind of Burglary that can be, 'tis worse then picking of a lock, or breaking into a roome by violence, for he who doth so, robs us peradventur of some outward pelf or baggage offortune; but he who breaks open ones private letter or seale, may be said to plunder his very brains, and rob him of his most precious meditations. We are reduced here to that servile condition, or rather to such a height of slavery, that we have nothing left which may entitle us free rationall creatures; the thought it self cannot say tis free, much lesse the tongue or pen. Which makes me impart unto You the traverses of these turbulent times, under the following fables. I know you are an exquisite Astronomer. I know the deep inspection you have in all parts of Philosophy, I know you are (4A.) A 2 a good

The Epistle Dedicatory.

a good Herald, and I have found in your study sundry books of erchitecture, and Comments upon Vitruvius. The unfolding of these Apologue's will put you to it in all these, and will require your second, if not your third Thoughts, and when you have concocted them well, I beleeve, (else I am much deceived in your Genius) they will afford you some entertainment, and doe the arrand upon which they are sent, which is, to communicate unto you the most materiall passages of this long'd for Parlement, of these sad confusions, which have so unbing'd, distorted, transvers'd, tumbled and dislocated all things, that England may be termed now, in comparison of what it was, no other then an Anagram of a Kingdom. One thing I promise you, in the perusall of these, Parables, that you shall find no gingles in them, or any thing fordid or scurrilous, the common dialost and disease of these times. So Itave you to the gard and guidance of

God and Vertue, who doe still advance Their Votaries, maugre the frownes of Chance.

Your constant servant,

A rown Q.

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The great Conjunction,

Parlement of STARS.

Ponatime, the Stars complained to Apollo, that he difplayed his beames too much upon some malignant Planets; That the Moone had too great a share of his influence, and that he was carryed away too much by her motion: They complained also, that the constellation of Libra(which holds the ballance of Justice) had but a dim light, and that the Astream Court was grown altogether destructive, with divers other grievances. Apollo hereupon, commanded Mercury to summon a generall Synod, where some out of every Asterisme throughout the whole Firmament were to meet; Apollo told them, I am placed here by the finger of the Almighty, to be Monarch of the Skie, to be the Measurer of Time, and I goe upon his errand round about the worldevery foure and tweny houres: I am also the Fountaine of Heate and Light, which, though I use to dispence and diffuse in equall proportions throughout the whole Universe; yet there is difference rwixt objects: a Castle hath more of my light then a Cottage, and the Cedar hath more of me then the Shrub: But touching the Moon, (the second great Luminary I would have you know, that the is dearest unto mee, therefore let none repine that I cherish her with my beames, and confer more light on her then any other. Touching the malignant Planets, or any other Star, of what magnitude soever, that moves not in a regular motion, or hath run any excentrique exorbitant course, or that would have made me to move out of the Zodiak, I put them over unto you, that upon due examination and proof, they may be unspher'd or extinguished. But I would have this done with moderation; I would have you to keep as neer as you can betweene the Tropiques and temperate Zones: I would have things reduced (47.) A 3

to their true Principles, reformed, not ruin'd; I would have the spirit of malice and lying, the spirit of partiality and injustice, the spirit of tyranny and rigour, the base spirit of seare and jealousie to be farre from this glorious Syderean Synod; I would have all private interests reflecting upon revenge or profit, to be utterly banished hence: Moreover, I would not have you to make grievances, where no grievances are, or dangers, where no dangers are; I would have no creation of dangers; I would have you to husband time as parsimoniously as you can, lest by keeping too long together, and amusing the world with such tedious hopes of redresse of grievances, you prove your selfe the greatest grievance at last, and so from Starres, become Comets: Lastly, I would have you be cautious how you tamper with my Soveraigne power, and chop Logicke with mee in that point; you know what became of Him, who once prefumed to meddle with my Chariot. Hereupon the whole Host of Heaven being constellated thus into one great Body, fell into a serious deliberation of things; and Apollo himselfe continued his presence, and sate amongst them in his full lustre, but in the meane time, whilest they were in the midst of their consultations, many odde Aspects, Oppositions, and Conjunctions hapned betweene them: for some of the Sperades, but specially those mongrel small vulgar stars, which make up the Galaxia (the milkie way in Heaven) gather in a tumultuous disorderly manner about the body of Apollo, and commit many strange insolencies, which caused Apollo (taking young Phosphorous the Morning-Star with him) to retire himselfe, and in a just indignation to withdraw his Light from the Synod: so all began to be involv'd in a strange kind of confusion and obscurity; they groaped in the dark, not knowing which way to move, or what course to take, all things went Cancer-like retrograde, because the Sunne detained his beames and irradiations from them.

MORALL

Such as the Sunne is in the Frmament, a Monarch is in his Kingdome: for, as the Wisest of men saith; In the light of the Kings Countenance there is life; and I believe that to be the Morall of this Aftrean Fable.

The Prince

Opvidoyia O'R,

The Great Councell of BIRDS.

Pon a time the Birds met in Councell, for redresse of some extravagancies that had flowns unto the volatily Empire; Nor was it the first time that Birds met thus; for the Phrygian Fabler tells us of divers meetings of theirs: And after him we read that Apollonius Thyaneus, undertook the inter-

pretation of their language, and to be their Drogoman.

They thus assembled in one great Covie by the call of the Eagle their unquestioned hereditary King, and by vertue of his Royall Authority, complaints were brought, that divers Cormorants and Harpies, with other Birds of prey, had got in amongst them, who did much annoy and invade the publique liberty: sundry other Birds were questioned, which caused some to take a timely flight Finch, &c.

into another ayre.

As they were thus consulting for advancement of the common good, many Rooks, Horne-Owles and Sea-Gulls flock'd toge-Mechanics ther, and fluttered about the place they were assembled in, where they kept a hideous noyse, and committed many outrages, and nothing could satisfie them, but the Griffons head, which was therefore chopt off, and offered up as a sacrifice to make them E. Straft.

leave their chattering, and to appeale their fury for the time.

They fell foule afterwards upon the Pies, who were used to be Bishops, much reverenced, and to sit upon the highest pearch in that great Assembly: they called them Idolatrous and inauspitious Birds, they hated their mixt colour, repined at their long traine, they tore their white feathers, and were ready to peck out their very eyes: they did what they could to put them in Owles seathers (as the poore Sheep was in the Woolfs skin) to make them the more hated, and to be star'd and hooted at where soever they passed. The Pies being thus scar'd, presented a Petition to the royall Eagle, and to this his great Counsell, that they might be secured to repaire safely thicker to sit and consult, according to the ancient Lawes

(49.)

Lawes of the Volatell Empire continued fo many ages without controllment or question: in which Petition they inserted a Pro. test or caveat, that no publique act should passe in the interim. This Supplication, both for matter and form, was excepted against, and cryed up to be high Treason, specially that indefinite Protest they had made, that no A & what soever should be of any validity without them, which was alledged to derogate from the High Law-making power of that great Counsell, and tended to retard and disturb the great Affairs which were then in agitation: so the poore Pies, as if by that Petition they had like the Black-bird voyded Lime to catch themselves, for Turdus cacat sibi malum, were suddenly hurried away into a Cage, and after ten long Moneths canvassing of the point, they were unpearch'd, and rendred for ever uncapable to be members of that Court, they were struck dumb and voice-lesse, and suddenly blowne up away thence, though without any force of powder, as once was plotted against them. But this was done when a thin number of the adverse Birds had kept stilltogether, and stuck close against them, and after that the Bill concerning them had been once ejected, which they humbly conceived by the ancient order of that Court could not be re-admitted in the same Session. They petitioned from the place they were cooped in, that for heavens fake, for the honour of that noble Counsell, for Truth and Justice fake, they being as free-born Denisons of the ayrie Region; as any other Volatills what soever, their charge might be perfected, that so they might be brought to a legall-triall, and not forced to languish in such captivitie. They pleaded to have done nothing but what they had precedents for: And touching the Cancat they had inferted, it was a thing usuall in every inferiour Court of furdicature, and had they forborn to have done it, they had breaged their ownnest, and done wrong to their successors altiwas uffigured they had been members of that Body politique long before those lower pearch'd Birds, who now would cast them outs and that they had been their best friends to introduce them to have any thing to doe in that generall Counsell: they prayed they might not be so cruelly used, as the Solan goose, and Redshanke had used them, 50.) who

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who were not content to braile and clip their wings onely, but to feare them so, that they should never grow again; to handle them so unmercitully, was not the way to make their adversaries Birds of Paradice: In fine, they advised them to remember what the sick Kite's mother answered him, when he defired her to pray to the gods for him, How canst thou, said she, expect any good from the gods, whole Temples thou hast so violated? At last, upon the importunity and pitisulnesse of their Petitions, the accusation of Treason, which kept such a noyse at first, being declined against them, they were released in the morning, but cooped up again before night: and after the revolution of source full Moones, they were restored again to a conditionall liberty, under which they remaine till

There wants not some, who affirm, that in that great Counsell of Birds therewere some Desoyes (and 'tis well known where De-Holland.

soyes were first bred) who called in, not onely these mongrill ob-Areperous Birds from abroad to commit such outrages as were spoken of before, but drew after them also many of the greatest Birds, who fate in that Assembly, to follow them whither they listed: Others, who were of a more generous extraction, disdained to be fuch Buzzards, as to be carried away hood-wincked in that manner, to be Birds of their feather. Thus a visible faction was hatched in this great Counsell, as if the faid Decoyes had difgorgedand let tall some graines of Hemlock seeds amongst them to distemper their braines. Or, as if some Spinturnix, that fatall incendiary Bird, or some ill-boding Scritch-Owle, which as stories tellius appeared once at Rome, in a famous, though unfortunate great Councell (when there was a schisme in the Popedome) had appeared likewise here. Therewanted not also amongst them some Amphibious Birds, as the Barnacle, which is neither Fish nor Fowle; and the cunning Batt, who sometimes professeth himself a Bird, sometimes a Mouse. I will not say there were any Paphlagenian Birds amongst them, who are known to have double hearts: But 'tis certaine, that in this confusion there were some malevolent Birds, and many of them fo young, that they were scarce stedg'd, who like the Washe in the Fable, conspired to fire the

(10)

Eagles nest, (and a Wasse may sometimes doe mischiese to an Eagle, as a Mouse to an Elephant.) Moreover, some of these light brained Birds flew so high, that they seemed to arrogate to themselves, and exercise royall power, but soolishly; for we know what became of the Crow upon the Ram's back, when the thought to imitate the Eagle: And it was observed that they were most eager to attempt those high insolences against Jove's Bird, who had been stark naked, and as bare as Cootes, unlesse he had feathered them; fo that the little Ant was more gratefull to Efops Bird, then those Birds were to the Eagle, their liege Lord. But the high-borne Bird with the two golden wings, the noble Faulcons, the Martlets, the Ravens, the Swan, the Chough, and all the ancient Birds of the mountains remained faithfull and firme to the Eagle, and scorned to be carried away by such Decoyes; As also the generous Ofriches, who unlesse they had had an extraordinary stomach, could not have digested such year pills as were offered them. Amongst other great Birds which banded against the Eagle, the flying Dragons, green and white, were bufy, specially the white; And for the Green, considering he was an ancient bird of the Mountains, and that his Progenitors had been fo renowned for their rare loyalty to the Crown, every one wondred that he should be drawn so far by the forefayed Decoyes, as to be the first of his race that should clap his wings against his Soveraign Liege Lord.

The foresaid destractions continued still, and increased more and more in that generall convolution of Birds; therefore the Turtle would stay there no longer, there was so much gall amongst them : the Pelican flew away, he saw Piety so vilified; the Dove was weary of their company, the found no simplicity and plain dealing amongst them : And the Kings-Fisher, the Halcyon, Arondelle. (the Embleme of Peace) quite for fook them, he found fo much

jarring, dissentions, and bandings on all sides; the Swallow also, who had so ancient and honourable a ranke amongst them, got into another ayre, he fore-saw the weather was like to be so foul: Her Mejeff And lastly, Philomela, the Queen of Volatills, who was partner of

the Eagle's nest, abandoned them quite, and put a Sea 'twixt her and them; nay, the Eagle himself withdrew his royall presence

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from them; so the Decoyes afore-said carried all before them, and comported themselves by their Orders in that hight, as if like the Lapwing, every one had a Crowne on his head; they so inchanted in a manner, all the common sort of Oppidan, rurall, and Sea-birds, and insused such a credulity into them, that they believed them to have an inerring spirit, and what came from them, was as true as the Pentateuch: Moreover, it was shrewdly suspected, that there was a pernicious plot amongst them to let in the Stork, who is never seen to stay long in any Monarchie.

MORALL.

Moderation is that Golden Rule whereby all great Counsells should square their deliberations, and nothing can tend more to their Honour or dishonour, in point of Wisdome: Moreover, in a Successive hereditary Monarchy, when subjects assume Regall Power, and barre the Holy Church of her Rights, and that Reverence which is due to her chief Professors, It is the most compendious way to bring all things to consustion, and consequently to an inevitable ruine; or some fatall Change.

And this I hold to be the chiefest Morall of this Apologue of Birds.

The gathering together, or Parlement of Flowers.

Ponatime, The Flowers assembled, and met in one generall Counfell, by the authority and fummons of the Soveraign Rose, their undoubted naturall King, who had taken the Lilly for his royall spouse. The dew of Heaven fell plentifully upon this happy conjunction, which made them to Bourgeon, to propagate and prosper exceedingly, in so much, that the Iweet fragrant oder which they did cast, diffused it self over all the earth. To this meeting came the Violet, the Gilliflower, Rosemary, the Tulyo, Lavender and Thyme, the Cinquefoyle (though of M. Ham, a forren growth) had an honourable ranke amongst them, and as some observed got roo much credit with the royall Rose. The Flowers of the fild were admitted also to this great Counsell: the Couflip, the Hony sukle and Daifie had their Delegates there prefent, to consult of a Reformation of certain abuses which had taken rooting in the Common wealth of Flowers, and being all un-(3-3.) B 2

(12)

der the Rose, they had priviledge to speak all things with freedome; Complaints were made that much Cockle and Darnell, with other noxious Herbs and I ares were crept in amongst them, that the Poppie did pullulat too much, with divers other grievances . The successe of this Senat, this great Bed or Poste of living Flowers, was like to prove very prosperous, but that the herb Briony, Wormwood, Wulfebane, Rue, and Melampod (the emblems of Sedition, Malice, Feare, Ambition and lealoufie) thrust in amongst them, and much distempered their proceedings: These brought in with them the Burr, which exceedingly retarded and intangled all businesses; and it was thought, that the Thistle was roo meddling amongst them, which made matters grow to that acrimony and confusion, as if the herb Morsus diaboli had got in amongst them. Amongst many other good-morrowes, they propounded to the Rose, that he should part with his prickles, and transmit his strength that way to be disposed of by them; the Rose liked not this bold request of theirs, though couched in very smooth language, but answered, I have hitherto condescended to every thing you have propounded, much more then any of my Predecessors ever did; but touching these prickles, which God and nature hath given mee, and are inherent in me and my stock from the beginning, though they be but excressencies, yet you know they fortifie and arme me, Armat Spina Rosam, And by them I protect you and your rights from violence; and what protection I pray can there be without strength? therefore I will by no means part with them to enfeeble my regall Power, but will retain them still, and bequeath them to my Posterity, which I would be loth to betray in this point; nor doe I much value what that filly infeeted Animal, the King of Bees tells me sometimes, when humming up and down my leaves, he would buzze this fond belief into me, how it added muclrto his M jestie, that nature gives him no sting, as all other Bees have because he should rely altogether upon the love and loyalty of his subjects. No; I will take warning by the Eagle, the King of Volatills, and by the Lyon, King of Quadrupedals, who (as the Prince of Moralists reports) when by fayre infinuations the one had parted with his tallous, the other with (54.) his.

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his teeth and ongles, wherein their might, and consequently their Majesty consisted, grew afterwards contemptible to all creatures, and quite lost that naturall alleasgeance and awe which was due unto the one from all birds, and to the other, from all beasts of field and forest.

MORALL.

Every naturall borne Monarch, hath an inherent inalienable strength in himselfe, which is the common Militia of his Kingdome; for, though the peoples love (which ottentimes is got by an Apple, and lost by a Peare) be a good C tradell, yet there must be a concurrence of some visible settled some besides, which no earthly power may dispose of without his royall commands; and for him to transmit this strength to any other, is the only way to render him inglorious and despicable, both at home and abroad;

And thus you have the sprit of these Flowers, and Morall of the Fatt.

The Affembly of Architects

There was an ancient goodly Palace, composed of divers pieces, and partition'd into sundry Chambers, Halls and Courts which were supported by mixt Pillars, partly Corinthian Jonique, but principally by the Dorigue, the King of Col having the firmest Pedestall: Sometooke exceptions, and a edged, that some of the faid Courts were too high, and some of the Cambers in this Structure were too wide. The Lard of this Paince call'd together the best Masons and Architects, to advise with him (not without him) for mending of those faults, the better contrivance of the roomes, and to reduce the Build no to a just proportion. They folemnely met, and falling to con ulration hereof, they found that the Chamber which was spang'ed with Stars, and where his private Councell of State did ule to fit, were toowide; they thought that the Court erected on the North fide, and that learned Court where Eccle fiafticall matters were fcanned, was too high; Thefe, with that peculiar Court which was erected for the support of Honour, they went about in lieu of rectifying, to ruinite and raze to the very ground; and some of these Masons (for indeed they were rather Masens then true Aschitects) were so precise and over criticall, that they seem'd to find fault with the position of the Chappell that belong d to this Palace, because, forfooth it stood East and West, which situation only in regard it was ancient, they leld to be a superstitious posture; They seem'd to re-(MA)R

pine at the decencie, riches and ornaments of it, with divers other frivolous exceptions. The Lord of the Palace faid little to that, but touching the errors and disproportions in the foresaid Courts and Chambers, he was very willing they should be amended, and reduced to a true dimension and symmetrie; and that all other roomes should be searched, and swept cleane: but hee would be loth to see those ancient pieces quite demolish'd, for that would hazard the fall of the maine Fabrique, his princely hereditary patrimony (descended upon him from so many wife Occonomists and royall Progenitors) in regard of the juncture and contignation those parts had with the whole frame. To mend a thing by demolishing it, is as curing a sicke body by knocking him in the head: he told them it was easier far to pull downe, then build up; one may batter to pieces in one houre, that which cannot be built in age: That everlasting Villaine, who burnt the Ephesian Temple, destroyed, as it were in a trice, what was a rearing up ten long Olympiads: He wish'd them further to be very cautious how they meddled with the Angulars and Basis of that royall Structure; for so they might prove as wise as those Architects, who tooke out some of the foundation stones to repaire the roofe. Lastly, he told them, that if they intended to pull downe any part of his now standing Palace, they should be well advised before hand of the fashion whereof those new pieces should be, which they purposed to reare up in the roome of the old.

MORALL.

Innovations are of dangerous consequence in all things, specially in a settled well temper'd state; therefore there should be great heed taken, before any ancient Court of Judicature, erected as a Pillar to support Justice by the wisedome of our Progenitors, be quite put downe; for it may shake the whole Frame of Government, and introduce a change; and changes in Government are commonly satall, for seldome comes a better. And this I hold to be the aime of this Apologue.

The Insurrection of the Winds.

I T fortuned, that the Winds banded against Eolus: And Boreas (the North-wind) began to bluster first, and would blow where he

be lifted, he grew fo boifterous, that as he is call'd Scopa viarum, the high way Beesome, he seem'd to sweep all before him Southward, insomuch, that uniting all his strength into one body, hee made towards Eolus in a hostile armed manner, and so obtained of him what he defired. After his example (and an odde example it was) the West-wind, his sellow subject rose up, alledging, that though he blew from the left-side of Heaven, yet hee deserved to be as much favoured as Borens. In regard he drove a far richer trade, and blew upon a more fertile Countrey, which brought in much more benefit to the test of Eolis his Dominions; therefore hee would have his liberties also assurd him, which hee prerended were as ancient as the others: And he puft with fuch an impetuous violence, that his blafts brought with them (God wot) divers showres of blood, and whole Cararacts of calamiries: And as it is observed in the course of Naturall things, that one mischiese seldome marcheth alone, but ushers in another, and hath alwayes its concomitants, so these North and Western gusts, as one wave useth to drive on another, made all the winds in the compasse, both co. laterall and sardinall, to rise up and rebell against Eolus, even under that very Clime, and in those Horizons, where he kept his principall residence and royall Court. And this popular wind (for twas no other, take it all joyntly in one puffe) did rage with that vehemencie, that it turn'd every where into fearefull flames of fire, (issuing out of a kind of Ignis fatuus, which by its repercussions, and surious arietations, did aworld of mischiese, as if it had been that incendiary Prester wind, or rather an Haraucana, that Indian gust, which alwayes brings the Divellalong with it (as those Savages believe) had blowne here, For, surely God was not in this wind. Yet some were so simple, to thinke that this wind proceeded from divine inspirations; nay, they came to that height of prophanenesse, as to father it upon the Holy Ghost, though nothing could be more different to his sweet motions, nothing so directly opposite to his soft gentle breeses and eventilations; for no holy consecrated thing could stand before this Diabolicall wind, downe went all Crosses it met withall; it batter'd downe Church and Chappell windowes (and I feare the walls and steeples will

will next to wracke) It was so violent, that it overturn'd all stone Tables that stood Eastward; it blew away all the decent Vests and Ornaments of the Church; the Bishops Mitre (ani order cons temporary with Christianity it selfe) did quake like an Aspen leafe before it; nay, it threwaly thooke the very Imperiall Scepa ter, and Crowne which stood on Eolus his head, so that he was like to become Ludibrium Ventorum. But the highest Deity of heaven. He who walketh upon the wings of the wind, and makes weight for them, and gathereth them in he fift when he pleaseth, hating such an odious rebellion, rebuked these rumultuous winds, he caused a contagious ayre, to ruth in and mingle with them, and infect them with new diferses; besides whitpers of jealousies, doubts and diffidence blew and buzz'd more and more amongst them, so that they could not trust one another; infomuch, that it made them to fall into confusion among stathemselves, which is the common fate of all rebellions. So Edlus recovered his Monarchy, and as they fay, there is no wind but blowes some body good; so this turn'd much to the advantage of Lolus, for he grew ever after more firme and better establish'd inhis regall power, because hee put a competent guard in those Chimes whence all these boistrous winds burst forth, and so secur'd himselfe ever after, that they could not blow where they lifted.

Rebellion suppress d, makes the Prince the stronger: And so you have the Principall Marall of this Parable in briefe.

Postscript.

Sir, I long to receive your opinion of these rambling pieces of fancy, you Smay, peradventure, have more when the times are open: surely, the mind will not hold still in this unluckie hole, for it is too violent to last. It begins (thanks be to God) to sift already, and amongst those multiudes, who expect the change, I am one that syeth at the Cape of good Hope, though a long time under hatches. Howsever, though all the winds in the Compasse blow upon me, I am arm'd and resolved to be are the bunt, and to welcome the Will of God. If you desire a further intimation of things, I referre you to a Discourse, call'd The True Informer, who will give you no vulgar satisfaction, So I am

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